

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00647 152229Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /090 W  
-----160153Z 054503 /70

R 152130Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6450  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0647

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER RE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
IN NICARAGUA

REF:  
(A) GUATEMALA 668 (B) MANAGUA 482 (C) SAN JOSE A-05

1. SUMMARY. PLN DEPUTY CORRALES BOLANOS CALLED ON  
CHARGE FEB 14 TO DELIVER ORIGINAL OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT  
CARTER RE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA AND U.S.  
RELATIONS WITH SOMOZA REGIME. LETTER APPEARS TO BE  
SIGNED BY FIFTEEN PERSONS BUT HAS SIGNATURE IDENTIFI-  
CATION PAGE WITH NAMES OF EIGHTEEN POLITICAL FIGURES  
AND INTELLECTUALS FROM MEXICO, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA,  
PANAMA, VENEZUELA AND COSTA RICA. CHARGE ACCEPTED LETTER  
AND AGREED TO FORWARD IT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00647 152229Z

2. GOVERNMENT PARTY (PLN) DEPUTY JOSE MIGUEL CORRALES  
BOLANOS TELEPHONED EMBASSY FEB 14 TO REQUEST URGENT  
APPOINTMENT WITH CHARGE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. APPOINTMENT WAS  
SET FOR LATE AFTERNOON AT WHICH TIME CORRALES BOLANOS  
APPEARED AT CHANCERY WITH NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS, PHOTO-  
GRAPHERS AND TV CAMERAMEN. POLOFF ESCORTED CORRALES

BOLANOS TO CHARGE'S OFFICE, LEAVING MEDIA REPS IN EMBASSY WAITING ROOM.

3. CORRALES BOLANOS OPENED DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID THAT HE AND A GROUP OF OTHER CITIZENS OF LATIN AMERICA ACCEPTED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AS HONEST AND SINCERE AND AS GENUINE REFLECTION OF HIGH MORAL TONE OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION. CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT INTENDS TO TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT IN CONDUCT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, SAME PERSONS HAD DECIDED TO MAKE PRESIDENT AWARE OF DEPLORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. HE THEN PRESENTED CHARGE WITH LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND REQUESTED, IN NAME OF ALL SIGNERS, THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO PRESIDENT.

4. TEXT OF LETTER IS IDENTICAL TO THAT PROVIDED TO EMBASSY IN LATE JANUARY BY JAVIER SOLIS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TODMAN. IN FIVE AND A HALF PWIES, LETTER RECALLS HISTORY OF SOMOZA DYNASTY, ALLEGES THAT SOHZZA FAMILY HAS USED POLITICAL POWER TO AMASS GREAT WEALTH, REPEATS CHARGES REGARDING SOMOZA'S USE OF AID FUNDS TO FURTHER ENRICH HIMSELF, AND CHARGES SOMOZA GOVERNMENT WITH GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. LETTER ALSO MENTIONS TESTIMONY OF FERNANDO CARDENAL BEFORE FRZSER SUB-COMMITTEE IN MAY 1976 AND ASSERTS THAT IN FACE OF THAT DOCUMENTED TESTIMONY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIALS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAN JO 00647 152229Z

ASSUMED ROLE OF DEFENDERS OF SOMOZA REGIME. LETTER ENDS WITH PLEA THAT U.S. TERMINATE ALL DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, MILITARY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SOMOZA FAMILY AND SEVERE ALL INTIMATE TIES TO SOMOZA REGIME.

5. THERE ARE SEVEN ANNEXES TO LETTER RELATING TO SOMOZA FAMILY FINANCIAL HOLDINGS AND DEALINGS AND TO ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE LATTER HAVE SURFACED EARLIER, E.G., RECENTLY-CIRCULATED LETTER OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF NICARAGUA, STATEMENT OF CHARGES ALLEGEDLY SIGNED BY THIRTY-THREE NORTH AMERICAN CAPUCHINO PRIESTS, ETC.

6. IDENTIFIED AS SIGNERS OF THE LETTER ARE FOLLOWING:

MEXICO:  
EFRAIN HUERTA  
CARLOS PELLICER  
JUAN DE LA CABADA

GUATEMALA:  
MANUEL COLOM ARGUETA

HONDURAS:  
JORGE ARTURO REINA

COSTA RICA:  
EUGENIO RODRIGUEZ VEGA  
JOSE MIGUEL CORRALES  
REVENDO PLUTARCO BONILLA ACOSTA

PANAMA:  
ROGELIO SINAN  
JOSE DE JESUS MARTINEZ  
JORGE LAGUNA NAVAS  
CARLOS WONG  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAN JO 00647 152229Z

VENEZUELA:  
JOSE VICENTE RANGEL  
REINALDO CERVINI  
MIGUEL OTERO SILVA  
LUIS BELTRAN PRIETO FIGUEROA

NICARAGUA:  
JOSE CORONEL URTECHO

7. IN ACCEPTING LETTER FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON, CHARGE STATED HIS PERSONAL GRATIFICATION THAT PRIVATE LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE BECOMING INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN HEMISPHERE. HE ALSO STATED HOPE THAT SUCH INTEREST WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO ONE OR TWO PARTICULAR COUNTRIES BUT WOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD ALL COUNTRIES WHERE VIOLATIONS OCCURRED, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEM OR OFFICIAL IDEOLOGIES. IF FOCUS WAS ON ONLY ONE COUNTRY, PROTESTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS MIGHT SIMPLY BE VIEWED AS POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED ATTACKS RATHER THAN EXPRESSIONS OF GENUINE INTEREST IN THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. UPON TERMINATION OF MEETING, BOLANOS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HAVING BEEN RECEIVED AND ALLOWED TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION. HE SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH PRESS AS HE DEPARTED EMBASSY BUT ONLY ONE MORNING PAPER (LA REPUBLICA) CARRIED BRIEF REPORT OF FACT AND PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT.

9. LETTER AND ANNEXES BEING POUCHED TO ARA/CEN WITH

COPIES TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA.  
KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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